

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A system for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, comprising one or more central processing units, system software for controlling said one or more central processing units, storage means containing one or more databases with information regarding buyers and sellers and the goods/services available, one or more servers providing for Internet-based access and use of said system, means for buyers of goods/services to select between at least one ~~direct~~ sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services interacting directly with said sellers and at least one ~~indirect~~ sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services without direct interaction with said sellers via an intermediary that acquires said goods/services from said sellers and resells same to said buyers ~~for completion of a transaction~~, means for buyers to transmit requests for quotation to said system, means for said system to transmit requests for quotation to selected sellers, means for sellers to transmit quotations to buyers in response to requests for same.

2.____-(Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for buyers to purchase goods/services by linking directly to seller ordering systems.

3. (Currently amended) A method for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, comprising the steps of: providing access to a searchable seller goods/services information database to search for desired items; providing buyers with at

least one sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services interacting directly with said sellers and at least one sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services without direct interaction with said sellers via an intermediary that acquires said goods/services from said sellers and resells same to said buyers ~~direct sales channel and at least one indirect sales channel intermediary~~ from a single point of purchase; receiving requests for quotation for goods/services from buyers; sending said requests for quotation to selected sellers; and processing seller quotations submitted in response to said requests for quotation.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of providing buyers with a direct link to seller ordering systems.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of selecting appropriate sellers to receive said requests for quotation based on filter conditions provided by buyers or sellers.

7. (Currently Amended) In a system for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, means for providing at least one sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services interacting directly with said sellers and at least one sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services without direct interaction with said sellers via an intermediary that acquires said goods/services from said sellers and resells same to said buyers, from a single point of purchase.